



Native American Artists to Market Works in Pablo

The Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance (MTTA) will hold its first annual Gathering of Artists July 16-17 at The People's Center in Pablo. It will

showcase the arts and craftwork of Montana's American Indians in a market setting. With a low cost for vendor space, the market aims to create a brand new

venue for American

Indian artists. The event also allows MTTA to build a stronger coalition of artists to benefit tourism development and small business development in Montana's reservation communities.

Early registrants for the showcase include Floyd Nevarez, a stained glass artist from the Flathead Reservation, and A2Z4Art, a family from Dodson which produces earrings, wall clocks, and a spicy Indian salsa (the food, not the dance).

The MTTA is a nonprofit intertribal organization that works to promote culturally appropriate economic development through tourism. For more information about the Gathering of Artists, contact Mary Jane Charlo, The People's Center, Pablo, 406-675-0160; or Dyani Bingham, MTTA, Billings, 406-259-4600.

Investing in Infrastructure

\$200,000 Available for Montana Projects

The Montana Department of Commerce's Tourism Development & Education Program has budgeted \$200,000 for the 2004 Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP). The TIIP grants help finance the creation, expansion, protection and improvement of tourism-related attractions across Montana. Eligibility requirements for TIIP Grants include:

- non-profit sponsor
- minimum grant request of \$20,000
- sponsor hard match of \$1 for every \$2 in grant funds provided
- project completed within 18 months of TIIP grant award
- completed application into Montana Promotion Division office by 5 p.m. August 2, 2004.

Since 1995, TIIP Grants have invested more than \$1.86 million in "bed tax" funds in 40 projects in 28 Montana communities. Total value of these tourism-related projects is more than \$23 million. TIIP applications are available at <http://travelmontana.state.mt.us>; go to News & Updates page, and click onto Travel Montana Application, Regulations, and Forms page. For more information, contact Tourism Development Coordinator Victor Bjornberg, 406-841-2795, victor@visitmt.com.

Seeley-Swan Visitor Center Opens

Speaking of TIIP grants, the long awaited Seeley Swan Visitor Center/Museum at Seeley Lake is now open. This is a community project that started with a TIIP grant of \$60,000 from the Promotion Division.

The Forest Service, Plum Creek Timber Company, and the Fort Missoula Historical Museum also provided generous grants. Local businesses and individuals donated time and materials. The Double Arrow Resort donated the logs from the collapsed roof of an old horse barn and a plot of land on Montana Highway 83, adjacent to the resort's golf course. The barn was reconstructed on the site and the horse stalls remain as part of the ground floor museum. The second floor is the new home of the Seeley Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Date Changed for 2005 Governor's Conference

In order to avoid the 2005 Easter Weekend, next year's Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation will be held March 21-22. Mark it in your calendars and plan to join the state's tourism and recreation industry at Helena's Red Lion Colonial Hotel.

Applications Available

2004 Community Tourism Assessment Programs

Montana communities interested in assessing their tourism potential and identifying feasible projects that can strengthen the role of tourism in their area are invited to apply for the 2004/2005 session of the Community Tourism Assessment Program (CTAP).

CTAP is a nine-month "self-help" program offered by MSU Extension, the Department of Commerce Promotion Division and the University of Montana's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research Program. Local community action committees learn how to analyze local resident attitudes about and interest

in tourism, their community's tourism potential, gaps in visitor services, and how to identify affordable projects or actions that could strengthen the role of tourism in the local economy.

CTAP applications are available by calling 841-2795, or by downloading the forms and guidelines from the Promotion Division's Intranet site, the forms and application section of the <http://travelmontana.state.mt.us/newsandupdates> page. Completed applications are due in the division's offices by 5 p.m. August 2, 2004. Participating communities will be selected by the middle of August and the first CTAP meeting will be held in September. For more information, contact Victor Bjornberg, 841-2795, e-mail: victor@visitmt.com

Enticing the "Indies"

The Montana Film Office traveled again to Los Angeles to market Montana to independent filmmakers on June 25 and 26, the final two days of the Los Angeles Film Festival. The festival is put on by Independent Features Project (IFP)/Los Angeles. IFP is a not-for-profit service organization dedicated to providing resources,



information and avenues of communication for its members: independent filmmakers, industry professionals and independent film enthusiasts. As a sponsor of the festival, the Montana Film Office hosted an evening forum and reception for the filmmakers.

The Intern Is In

The Film Office welcomes Sage Dubois, its 2004 summer intern. Sage has completed her third year in the Professional and Technical Communications program at Montana Tech. Originally from Belgrade, she's now living in Butte until she finishes school. Sage says her interests are turning from graphic design

to audio and visual presentation, so the internship is "perfect." She's interested in documentaries and has even made a film about her father.

She'll be here through August 6, learning and assisting with all aspects

Exposure

- June's Travel & Leisure names the Lazy E-L Ranch in Roscoe, the Big EZ Lodge in Big Sky, and Mountain Sky Guest Ranch in Emigrant as the cream of the crop of Montana's privately owned guest lodges near Yellowstone National Park.
- The May issue of Trailer Life featured an article about Three Forks. It appeared on the back page of the magazine, which Robin Cadby-Sorensen, curator of the Headwater Heritage Museum in Three Forks, says is particularly good, since some people read magazines from back to front.

of promoting Montana as a filming location. She's also a player on the Montana Tech varsity volleyball team, so if we can just get a volleyball team going in the next few weeks...

Reminder to Operators!!

Please return the Travel Planner survey that was mailed to you at the end of May. Review the current promotional material that Montana Promotion Division is using in its publications and on the website and feel free to make corrections or additions. Return to: Surveys, PO Box 7549, Missoula, MT 59807-9908.



Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided to disabled persons on request.

Calendar of Events

July

- 16-17 Montana Tribal Tourism Alliance's Gathering of Artists, Pablo
- 25-27 Meeting Professionals International, World Education Congress, Denver

For all of the latest Montana tourism industry information log on to:
travelmontana.state.mt.us



Travel Montana • Montana Film Office
Montana Department of Commerce

301 S. Park
PO Box 200533
Helena, MT 59620-0533

STD PRSRT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Helena, MT
Permit No. 20